MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: (*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*)

1. Assistant Commissioner	...	Nil.
2. Inspector	...	1
3. Sub-Inspectors	...	8
4. Clerks	...	3
5. Petty Officers	...	3
6. Peons	...	28

Widening the Alwaye Railway Bridge for Cart Traffic.

12. THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI: Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have come to any definite decision as to the widening of the Alwaye railway bridge so as to render it useful for cart-traffic as well, and, if not, why?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: The Governments of Travancore and Cochin have come to an agreement as regards the fitting up of the railway bridges over the Alwaye main and branch rivers for road traffic. The cost will be borne in equal shares by the two Governments. Arrangements are in progress for the necessary investigation and the preparation of estimates.

Delay in acquiring Lands for Roads.

13. THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI: (*a*) Are the Government aware that the present protracted method of road-construction is, in many cases, partly due to the unnecessary delay caused by the land acquisition proceedings of the Land Revenue Department?

(*b*) Is it not possible to expedite land acquisition work by investing the superior officers of the P. W. D. with the power to acquire lands required for road construction, by introducing the necessary amendments in the Land Acquisition Regulation?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: (*a*) Government are not aware of any undue delay in acquiring lands for road construction. The several steps prescribed by the law have to be taken and this must take some time. In urgent cases, the emergency Section of the Regulation is being availed of and immediate possession of lands given whenever necessary.

(*b*) Government do not consider it desirable to invest P. W. D. Officers with the powers of a Division Peishkar under the Land Acquisition Regulation.

THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKAPALLI: Do Government know why the sums budgeted for the Manjapara-Angamali road and the Kizhakambalam-Alwaye road were not utilised last year?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: Government have no information on that point.

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